

March/April 2022



**TEMPLE  
ISRAEL**

and Jewish Community Center



**Reconstructionist  
Congregation  
Beth Israel**

*A Contemporary  
Look at Tradition*

# Temple Talk

## News you can use from the TI-JCC community

### FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

#### Whoopi and Racism

At the start of February, at the monthly Ridgewood interfaith clergy meeting, I was asked by a Protestant colleague what I thought about Whoopi Goldberg's comment that the Holocaust was not about race. That's how I found out about an infelicitous comment that Whoopi has apologized for and that has drowned in a deluge of commentary and opinion. Whoopi Goldberg herself was suspended for a brief period from *The View* where she made the remark. Was the Holocaust not about racism? Of course it was. The Nazis wrote the book on racism. They went to the greatest efforts to support biological and anthropological studies that sought to determine the "Semitic" traits of the "Jewish race" to prove that the Jews were not "Aryans" but a foreign element that needed to be excised from Germany. Craniology studied the different size of Jewish skulls, not to mention studies of nose shape and dark hair. The physical traits of Jews were tied to (negative) sociological traits in a science of racism that has been long discredited yet continues to emerge in public and political opinion if not in the halls of scientific academia. Whoopi argued that the Holocaust was not about racism but rather about one group of white people persecuting another group of white people. She sought to make a generalizing statement about the Holocaust, that it was about "man's inhumanity to man." It was about that, but it was also about a more specific evil, that one group of people defined another through pseudo-scientific theories as not only foreign but racially inferior. The racial barrier, the Nazis believed, could not be breached because "Jewish traits" of behavior were endemic to the holders of "Jewish genes." It was the unbreachable biological distinction between Jews and Arians that led to the Final Solution, the active extermination of Jews from Europe. The problem with Whoopi's statement was that it denied the foundational element of the Holocaust, the attempt of a "master race" to subdue and eliminate an "inferior race."



### President's Column

Ten Hebrew School students shuffled into the sanctuary on a recent Sunday morning. In keeping with one of our most sacred traditions, these Kitah Daled and Hey students beeline for the back row. But with some encouragement from our fearless Ritual Committee chair and Brandeis Men's Club stalwart, David Millman, the students migrated east (closer to the front). David dove into the material, pelting these preteens with trivia about another of our most sacred traditions, tefillin. A credit to their parents and our Hebrew school, the students were up to the task. Where they could, they answered David's questions. Where they couldn't, they respectfully absorbed his answers. Then, they stood, and with the assured assistance of other Men's Club stalwarts, these sixth and seventh graders slowly, studiously, learned the timeless art of tying on tefillin.



World Wide Wrap, the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs' annual tefillin teach-in, is another instance of how we *connect* at Temple Israel. In this instance, the connection is double. Our students' connecting with their tradition and members from a mature cohort connecting with those from a maturing cohort. (Given Men's Club's involvement, the reader may decide which was the mature cohort and which was maturing.) In response to your feedback in last year's congregational survey, we are striving to host more programs that bring together members from across our age-spectrum to daven, learn, and socialize with one another. The spring will bring so many more opportunities to do so.

We are planning an in-person Purim blowout for Wednesday, March 16. Blowout? Yes, you could say we are making a Megillah out of it. A Purim carnival for our Hebrew school students that afternoon, followed by our all-congregation Megillah reading that evening. Young and old alike are encouraged to don costumes while the rabbi recounts the tale of Esther, Mordechai, and H----. Substantial cash-value prizes will *not* be awarded. Modest ones may be, at the

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**A Message from Rabbi Leah Moser will return in the next issue**

## MEMBERSHIP

In recent weeks some of us have had the pleasure of seeing new faces during services in the sanctuary. First, there are the monthly school Shabbat programs which bring our Hebrew school kids and their parents to services once a month. This past month, students in the Kitah Aleph class were awarded their own prayer books, thanks to the Amsterdam Family Endowment Fund. Watching the third graders on the bimah and hearing their enthusiastic responses to questions was heartwarming and exciting, as was seeing their proud parents' faces.. It's exciting to have our families, with children, attending services. This is how we pass on our traditions and our knowledge.

Members of Temple Beth Sholom (TBS) are beginning to attend services regularly. On a personal note, I am seeing people I knew in other worlds. I saw our daughter's YJCC nursery school teacher, Nina Saslowsky, who we met about thirty years ago. Nina's son, Jeff, and our son, Dan, were also in nursery school together at the Y. Seeing her felt like being in community together, and reconnecting was lovely.

I shared kiddush lunch with several TBS folks and learned, that like us, they treasure a warm community that is welcoming and down to earth. To me, it feels like a natural fit to bring our two communities together. I was also delighted to learn that Sybil Schreiber, a longtime member of TBS, works at an agency in Passaic that supports teenage mothers and provides daycare for their children. Her agency is always grateful to accept gifts of books, clothing, and baby equipment. I told her that we have a good number of members who are or will be downsizing and are often looking for a place to donate their treasures. So it's nice to know we have another group that welcomes donations of goods. It is also fun to anticipate new people getting involved. New ideas and lots of hands make the volunteer workload manageable.

We can look forward to celebrating our community in March on Sisterhood Shabbat.

If you are staying home because of Covid, you can connect with Rabbi Fine over coffee on Wednesdays at noon, through his course on antisemitism, or at other on-line events.

We look forward to celebrating Purim and delivering Mishloah Manot to all of our members. It's all about connecting. Happy spring.

*Jo Rosen, Co-chair*

*Jay and Elissa Glucksman Hyne, Co-chairs*



### Temple Israel Has Its Own YouTube Channel



Did you know that Temple Israel has its own YouTube channel? Getting to it is easy.

You can access it directly at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYU9gN-Kd9IGMR5u\\_elMuPg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYU9gN-Kd9IGMR5u_elMuPg). Or you can access it from the temple's website, <https://www.synagogue.org/>, using the YouTube link at the bottom of the homepage. Subscribing is easy. Just click the red "subscribe" button.

We have over 150 videos. The earliest ones were Friday night services. The latest are our most recent recorded events such as the rabbi's adult education lectures on antisemitism and presentations by congregation members. The channel has been invaluable to our Hebrew school students, who use the site to practice prayers. There are over thirty prayers that can be accessed directly through this link: [Tefillah Goals NNJA](#). Ideas for new videos are always welcome.

It has been my pleasure working with shul friends to build a channel that showcases Temple Israel and provides access to events members may have been unable to attend.

*Stacey Scott*



## NNJJA News

### A Message from Jessica

Have you ever had an experience where you tried to do something just because it seemed to make sense to you and then someone came along and provided validation by naming it? When my third child, Solomon, was a baby learning to eat solids we had a five-year-old and three-year-old. We gave Solomon food in bite-size pieces and let him have at it. He seemed happy, and we didn't spend time pureeing food or airplaning it into his mouth. We had not done that with the other two (my oldest got organic purees made at home and frozen in ice-cube trays, my middle got some parent purees and some pouches). A parent friend came over one day and asked if we were doing "baby lead weaning" with Solomon. Baby lead weaning is basically giving the child large chunks of food, and letting the child learn how to eat it on their own. They figure it out. And just like that, our actions with baby number three were named and validated. Of course we are following baby lead weaning!

I recently had a similar experience when I attended a training that Federation organized for religious school principals in Bergen County. The training was through Better Lesson, an organization intended to give educators tools and tricks to help them navigate new technologies and educational philosophies. There are a ton of new tools that have emerged since learning moved online and keeping up with them is no easy task. The trainer gave us a map with clickable sections for us to explore. I was clicking away and I found something that we are already doing at NNJJA. Better Lesson helped me give it a name and, with that, validation.

The idea is called "flipped instruction." The basic premise is that students should use class time for exploration and fine-tuning, and the actual learning or lecture can be watched and studied at a student's own pace. An easy way to think about this is a science lesson. A student would watch the lecture of the teacher at home, and then do the lab in class.

How does this translate to Hebrew school? Well, we're already doing it. Our Wednesday students are studying at their own pace, using the tools and techniques that work best for them to continue their progress toward tefilah goal. Students have their siddurim and YouTube videos of Rabbi Fine chanting. These are their tools. Some students learn better when they can sing along with the recordings. Other students learn more quickly when they do a repeat-after-me method of playing, chanting, repeating. Either of these strategies will result in the same outcome: a student who is practicing the tefilot on their own will master them.

Then, they meet an educator in 20-minute sessions on Wednesdays, who helps them fine-tune and move forward with a plan for independent study that gets emailed home after the lesson. Students who use the tools and spend a little bit of time studying between Wednesday sessions make significant progress in Hebrew and tefilah. Learning these is just like being on a sports team that practices regularly or learning a musical instrument. Students see the benefits quickly. Students who learn on their own with tools to guide them will make significant progress in short periods of time.

After the initial Better Lessons webinar, I continued to learn about flipped instruction with a mentor with whom I met for four sessions. She learned about our school, our Shabbat school, and helped me strategically think about how to make our program work best for our learners. I am grateful for Federation's willingness to offer support to religious school principals. Professional development is always important to keeping up one's skills and reminding us why we do what we do.

If you want to learn a little more about flipped instruction here's a YouTube link:  
<https://youtu.be/BCIxikOq73Q>. In the YouTube search bar, search for "flipped instruction;" it's the first video that pops up. The video is titled "Flipped Classroom Model: Why, How, and Overview."

**Jessica Spiegel, Director**  
[jspiegel@synagogue.org](mailto:jspiegel@synagogue.org)  
201-444-4149

## Adult Education

Adult education encompasses Jewish study, social action, entertainment, arts and culture, sacred voices, criminal justice, immigrant rights, and more. Currently, participation is virtual but as soon as the pandemic environment becomes safe, we will offer both Zoom and in-person opportunities.

Most recently featured was **Dr. David Namerow** (pictured, right), who spoke about **Storm King Art Center** in the Hudson Valley, the largest collection of outdoor contemporary art in the country. More than sixty-five of us joined Dr. Namerow for his hour-long presentation in which he expertly explained the history of Storm King and its many sculptures and discussed the artists' intentions. **The Jewish Standard** published a full-page feature article on Dr. Namerow and his presentation in the January 21 edition. His program is recorded and available on our website at [www.synagogue.org](http://www.synagogue.org) for those who missed it. All future Zoom programs will be recorded and appear on our website on our YouTube channel.



Adult education has been addressing a wide range of topics and will continue to do so. On February 10, we heard from the **Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition**. The coalition began in 2006 with the encouragement of the Ethical Culture Society. Its mission is to assist asylum seekers, once they have been allowed to leave detention, to gain a foothold in the United States. This is a very complex situation as their status does not allow them to work, making survival an amazing struggle. Asylum seekers also need help in understanding the culture of the United States and the communities they find themselves in. The quagmire of court hearings and permissions may take 12-18 months and appeals may take even longer, leaving them in limbo. The struggle of individuals and families to find support for long periods of time is a daunting task.

There are currently 250,000 people in detention centers around the country with few means of release and legal help. Regardless of the current or prior presidential administration, the process is suffocating. Anyone who wishes to support the **Northern NJ Sanctuary Coalition** can go to their website (<https://www.njsanctuary.org/>) and offer assistance or donations or find information on rallies, meetings, and membership.

### These were other recent presentations:

**NJ League of Conservation Voters:** Standing up for climate change through the ballot

**Great Swamp Watershed Association:** Protecting water rights and climate change

**Earth Share NJ:** Mobilizing the people of New Jersey to protect our land, water, air, and wildlife

### Upcoming events will offer diverse learning opportunities:

**March 17:** **New Jersey Audubon Society**—Creating a certified wildlife garden to attract hummingbirds to your yard

**March 20:** **Sierra Club**—Champion for the environment

**March 24:** **F.O.R.T.E House**—Forcing out recidivism through education

**March 27:** **Hackensack Riverkeeper**—Climate change on the Hackensack River

**April 13:** **Steve Weisfeld, boxing judge**: A view from the ring. Steve has judged boxing events for years and will share his expertise

**April 18:** **Freddie Kotek**—The history of the Paterson Jewish community

**May 5:** **HIAS**—The challenges facing refugees and asylum seekers today, through a Jewish lens

**May 18:** **Imam Hamza**—Jewish relationships with the Muslim world

### The following continue to be offered by our clergy to engage our congregants in a variety of meaningful programs:

#### **Rabbi Fine**

Lecture series on antisemitism, selected Mondays, 8 pm on Zoom

Coffee with the Rabbi, selected Wednesdays, 12 pm on Zoom



#### **Rabbi Moser**

Pirkei Avot reading group: Wednesdays, 7:30 pm on Zoom

Midrash discussions: Thursdays, 3:00 pm on Zoom

If you know of someone in or out of our congregation who has a vocation or avocation that you think our community would be interested in, please share that with me and I will pursue your suggestion in offering a presentation.  
[rsmolen18@gmail.com](mailto:rsmolen18@gmail.com).

*Storm King Art Center sculpture*

#### **Bob Smolen, Chair**

# MUSICAL NOTES



## TEMPLE ISRAE'LIGHTS BIMAH BAND

Our instrumentalists will add *ruach* for upcoming spring Friday night services on March 11, March 18, April 8, May 6, and June 3. Kudos and thanks to our musicians: **Marc Cantor** (guitar), **Susan Kornblit** (guitar), **Bonnie Kaplan** (piano), **Artie Bresler** (winds), **Wayne Miller** (percussion), and **Tamara Freeman** (violin). For outdoor services, we are able to be even more Covid-safe and will welcome back **Anne Wolf** (flute) and **Debbie Cantor** (flute). Be on the lookout in future *Temple Talk* articles to learn about the diverse musical backgrounds and accomplishments of these musical Temple Israel family members.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**May 15, 2022:** America Israel Cultural Foundation (AICF) afternoon concert featuring Sivan Arbel (vocals) and her jazz ensemble. This is Sivan's encore performance at Temple Israel. We were mesmerized by her talent at the 2021 Ways & Means party. Since 1939, AICF has played a leading role in helping develop and fund many of Israel's largest cultural institutions. Most of Israel's finest artists in every discipline have received assistance from AICF. Among those supported: Itzhak Perlman, Menashe Kadishman, Pinchas Zukerman, Gil Shaham, Yefim Bronfman, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Israel Museum, and the Batsheva Dance Company. Our AICF concert is generously sponsored by Richard Schnaittacher.

Sivan Arbel, Jazz Vocalist

**June 12, 2022** (rain date June 19): Mark Brandenburg (guitar) and Dale Healey (vocals). Mark and his sister, Dale, are the cousins of our own Ira Brandenburg. The concert includes some community singing, so please join us!

**June 24, 2022** We are already looking forward to the warmth of summer and the glory of celebrating Shabbat Under the Summer Sky. Please join us for a 6:00 concert immediately followed by services at 6:30.

Do you play a musical instrument? Would you like to be part of the fun and spirit of the Bimah Band? Contact Tamara Freeman to learn more about this special group. [TamaraFreeman@verizon.net](mailto:TamaraFreeman@verizon.net).

**Debbie Cantor, Concert Chair**

**Tamara Freeman, D.M.A., Sacred Music Chair**

# Brandeis Men's Club



Temple Israel & Jewish Community Center  
475 Grove Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450

On February 13 we participated in the annual **World Wide Wrap** as part of the Sunday minyan and Hebrew school program for sixth and seventh graders. This year we had seventeen participants learning how to wear tefillin and daven as part of a minyan. Thank you to Ritual Committee chair and BMC member, David Millman, for doing an outstanding job filling in for Rabbi Fine. The World Wide Wrap may be over, but it is never too late to learn. The Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC) has instructional videos to watch at <https://www.fjmc.org/content/tefillin-videos>.

The Northern New Jersey Region of FJMC is hosting a Leadership Development Institute on March 22, 2022. This free, half-day event is open to all BMC members who would like to know more and/or be more involved in the future of the Brandeis Men's Club. Contact Evan at [BMCPresident@synagogue.org](mailto:BMCPresident@synagogue.org) for more information.

**Yellow Candles** are coming; look in your **Mischloah Manot** bag! The Yellow Candle reminds us of the yellow star that Jews were forced to wear to identify themselves as Jews and which opened them to ridicule and persecution. By participating in this worldwide program, we build the next link in the chain of memory. Just as we light a yahrzeit candle to burn for twenty-four hours to remember a dear one who is no longer with us, so, too, once a year, we light a yellow Yom Ha Shoah candle to burn twenty-four hours to remember our 6,000,000 brothers and sisters who died for no other reason but they were Jewish. **Zachor.**

Our next meeting dates are March 8, April 12, and May 10. The times and locations will be announced. All are welcome.

**Evan Fleischmann, President**



BMC members David Millman, Manny Haber, and Howard Schreiber help our soon-to-be b'nai mitzvah learn to tie tefillin.

*The following article and photo were inadvertently omitted from the January/February issue of Temple Talk. We apologize for the oversight.*

## Celebrating Together

Once a year, the member clubs of the Northern New Jersey Region (NNJR) of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs gather to celebrate one man and one youth who exemplify the meaning of being an integral part of the larger Jewish community. It is an honor to witness the camaraderie and genuine affection that fills the room as each of the honorees takes his place on the bima to accept his award.

**Scott Baslaw**, our **Man of the Year**, was the driving force behind our wonderful and successful Night at the Opera fundraising event. He also created and sustained the Tuesday Night Zoom minyan to keep us all connected during trying times. BMC is grateful for Scott's calm and ambitious leadership.

As if **Ariel's Fine's** shofar talent wasn't enough to earn the title of **Youth of the Year**, Ariel has the respect of his peers and the adults around him. His quiet leadership and gentle strength that we all know so well will continue to serve him and all those who meet him.



*Left to right: David Glass, NNR President; Ariel Fine, Youth of the Year; Scott Baslaw, Man of the Year; David Julis, NNR Executive Vice President*

## Sisterhood News

### Upcoming Events

Sisterhood has many fun events planned for the winter and spring, including Sisterhood Shabbat. Please join us! Dues are \$36 per year for synagogue members (first year free), \$54 for non-members. Your money goes right back to the synagogue in the form of Circle of Honor membership, gifts, and events.

**Sisterhood Shabbat, Saturday, March 26.** This day is particularly special to those of us who grew up in a time when women could not take part in services, and we're happy to say that our beloved tradition is back. Expect a call soon asking you take part. Many short parts are available in English as well as in Hebrew. The celebration continues with a catered kiddush.

### Past Events

On Sunday morning, February 6, twenty synagogue members gathered via Zoom to discuss their research, both current and future, into their family's genealogy. First, participants watched an excellent video, part of Women's League's "How to Live Forever" series, on preserving documents and photos. The discussion focuses on what to preserve and how to do it. Several participants brought precious family photos to share with the group.

Here are links to Women's League's YouTube videos on this topic:

View the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdP2m-tUenA>.

Explore the entire "How to Life Forever" series here: <https://www.wlcj.org/programs/womens-league-programs-online-programs-and-webinars/how-to-live-forever-series/>.

### Torah Fund Pins and Cards

Support Torah Fund by donating \$180 for a beautiful 2021-22 pin or as little as \$5 for a greeting card. Every woman has the opportunity to participate in preserving, promoting, and perpetuating Conservative/Masorti Judaism through the [Torah Fund Campaign](#) of Women's League in support of the Jewish Theological Seminary (New York, NY), Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (Los Angeles, CA), Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies (Jerusalem), Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano (Buenos Aires, Argentina), and Zacharias Frankel College (Potsdam, Germany). This year's theme is B'Yachad ("together"). To donate, contact Susie Goldstein at 201-315-7774 or [susieg70@aol.com](mailto:susieg70@aol.com).



"B'Yachad" (Together), the Torah Fund pin for 2021-22

**Debbie Cantor, Co-president  
Elaine Silverstein, Co-president**

#### TI-JCC Mission Statement

TIJCC offers a choice of Conservative and Reconstructionist services, and a variety of cultural, social and educational programs for those who are committed to creating an evolving and vibrant Jewish community in northern New Jersey.

## RITUAL ROUNDUP

Football is over, we're packing away our shovels and snow blowers, and we'll soon be serenaded by the sweet sound of lawnmowers (and baseball?). Time to break out the groggers, dig into our Mishloach Manot bags and put on our Purim costumes as we listen to the Megillah reading. Then we start cleaning our houses and kitchens as we prepare for Pesach.

In the Torah we just finished up the book of Shemot (Exodus) and are starting to work our way through the desert wanderings and abundance of laws in Vayikra (Leviticus).

Thanks to everyone who supported our services by attending during the cold winter months and participated in davening the services, leyning the torah, and chanting the haftarah. Please join us for these upcoming simchas and ritual events:

*Saturday, March 12  
Wednesday, March 16  
Saturday, March 19  
Saturday March 26  
Saturday, April 2  
Saturday, April 9*

**Shabbat Zachor**  
**Erev Purim (carnival, Megillah reading)**  
**Eli Della Torre bar mitzvah**  
**Sisterhood Shabbat (Shabbat Parah)**  
**Shabbat Ha Chodesh**  
**Shabbat Ha Gadol**

### **Passover**

*Friday, April 15  
Saturday April 16  
Sunday, April 17  
Friday, April 22  
Saturday, April 23  
Wednesday, April 27  
Wednesday, May 4*

**Siyum for Fast of the Firstborn**  
**Pesach Day 1 (9:30 am start)**  
**Pesach Day 2 (9:30 am start)**  
**Pesach Day 7**  
**Pesach Day 8 (Yizkor)**  
**Erev Yom Ha Shoah (light Yellow Candle at night)**  
**Erev Yom Ha'atzma'ut (BBQ)**

On an ongoing basis, please feel free to sign up to do a torah or haftorah reading, accessible online at:  
<http://signup.com/go/iVuOmDe>. (Contact David Millman with any questions: [millman.david@gmail.com](mailto:millman.david@gmail.com).)

**Dave Millman, Chair**



*Our beautiful Temple Israel window (photos courtesy of Jo Rosen Photography)*

## Rabbi Fine's Passover Guide 2022

Passover is one of the most widely observed and yet most complicated of all Jewish traditions. What follows here are general guidelines on the observance of Passover that I distribute each year. I understand that there are various degrees to which Passover is kept in our various homes, and I respect all ways that Judaism is marked in our families. What follows are guidelines for keeping kosher-for-Passover according to my reading of Jewish law.

To keep kosher for Passover, the first thing that one must do is rid the household of *hametz* (i.e., food that is not kosher-for-Passover). This is because we are not only forbidden to eat hametz during Passover, we are also forbidden to own it.

**Selling of Hametz.** One tries to finish up foodstuffs in the house, especially perishables. What one does not finish, if unopened, may be donated for the hungry. All opened foodstuffs are considered hametz since they may have come into contact with hametz. What one wishes to keep, one must "sell" for the week of Passover. I, and most rabbis, act as agents for their communities in the sale of hametz. Individuals will authorize me to sell their hametz. I then, as the collective agent, sell the hametz of the community to a non-Jew, usually Maureen. The sale will be written in such a way that Maureen, while owning all the hametz, will not actually take possession of it until after Passover. But by that time, the sale will have been cancelled and ownership will revert back to the original owners. Trust me, Maureen will not come to raid our liquor cabinets! However, since we do not actually own this food during Passover, what we do is put the non-perishable foods away, out of sight. They can be stored for the week in the garage or basement. Or they can be kept in the pantry, and if so, the pantry or specific cabinets containing such foods should be closed off with masking tape (so we don't accidentally eat "Maureen's food"). You can authorize me to sell your hametz by filling out the form included in this mailing and emailing or delivering it to the synagogue office, or by emailing me at [rabbi@synagogue.org](mailto:rabbi@synagogue.org) and asking me to sell all hametz in your possession. **Please send me the authorization no later than Thursday, April 14.** I do need the authorization in writing (so please no voicemail messages), and the authorization must contain the address (or addresses) of property where you want the hametz to be sold. It is customary to make a small donation with the authorization to sell hametz. If you give me cash or send in a check for the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund with a note that it is for Passover, I will forward the funds to Mazon, the national Jewish organization based in Los Angeles that collects food to feed the hungry. **Last year in 2021, I was able to send Mazon a check for \$363 collected from this Passover appeal. Let's be generous to support the needy this Passover.** As we start to shop for our family seders, let us not forget this important mitzvah of providing for others.

**Making the kitchen kosher for Passover.** Making the kitchen kosher for Passover means cleaning out the fridge of all food-stuffs (or taping off the shelves of the fridge containing sold hametz) and thoroughly cleaning all the counters, tables, cabinets and other areas where food is stored, prepared, cooked and served. Some will cover their countertops and shelves with lining (or aluminum foil) to signify that those areas are kosher-for-Passover and to prevent contact with any hametz that might not have been cleaned. Others simply rinse the countertops as long as they are made of a non-porous material (i.e. not wooden). All flatware, dishes and cooking utensils must also be stored away or taped off. The easiest thing to do is to have separate sets of Passover dishes, utensils and pots and pans. That is preferable to "kashering." But if one must, metal items can be "kasheder" by submersion in boiling water after cleaning. Take your largest metal pot and boil water in it so that the water

boils over. That pot is now kosher for Passover. Then, drop metal utensils in the pot of boiling water, and those become kosher for Passover in turn. Make sure to keep the kasherized items separate from the other items. There are some rabbinic opinions that treat hard plastics the same as metal. That is, if the plastic can withstand boiling water, then it can be kasherized. I prefer not to kasher plastics. The Conservative movement also permits the kasherizing of glassware simply through the dishwasher. We have always done that in my family. The more traditional opinion is soaking the glassware in water for 72 hours. Finally, earthenware and wooden utensils should not be kasherized. There is a tradition that fine expensive china can be kasherized by not being used for a period of six months to a year. This tradition is to save us from losing our "inheritance" just because the china wasn't kosher. While we may want our best china to be used for Passover, it is acceptable to use even paper plates, if that is done in order to observe and celebrate the traditions of Passover. However, we should also be mindful of not overproducing waste. Simple glass dishware is always a simple solution for Passover.

Finally, there are parts of the kitchen that cannot be exchanged for Passover, like the sink, stove, oven, and dishwasher. If the sink is metal, pour boiling water over it. If it is porcelain (which is unfortunate from the point of view of Jewish law) then use a plastic sink liner for Passover. The stovetop should be cleaned and that is sufficient (unless you eat off the stovetop. If you do, just don't do that on Passover!). The self-cleaning device for a conventional oven will kasher the oven. If the oven does not have a self-cleaning mechanism, then a blowtorch is required to kasher the oven. One "hit" with the blowtorch will suffice. But only use that if you know how! The best thing to do with a barbecue is put in new racks. Otherwise the racks would need to be covered with aluminum foil. The dishwasher should be run once with an empty load.

**Buying Passover Foods.** Fruits and vegetables and (kosher) meats are kosher for Passover. Just rinse them with water as you normally should do. Everything else is more complicated. Milk does not require a kosher-for-Passover marking if it is bought prior to Passover so buy your milk before Passover. All processed foods should have a kosher-for-Passover marking. Because so many ingredients are added to foodstuffs today, it is easiest to buy only kosher-for-Passover foods. We are fortunate to live in an area where there are plenty of kosher products available. Our supermarkets and local kosher butchers carry many items that are kosher-for-Passover.

**The "Nullification of Hametz".** On Thursday night, April 14, we search the house for hametz (we search with a candle, a ritual that I always looked forward to growing up) and we burn the hametz (outside, safely contained in a tin) on Friday morning, April 15. When we burn the hametz we recite a formula that nullifies all hametz in our possession that we know or don't know of. The purpose of this is to protect us just in case we forgot to either sell or get rid of certain hametz. It is a legal "safeguard" and meaningful ritual at the same time. The text with instructions is found in most haggadot for Passover in the first few pages.

**The Day Before Passover.** Friday, April 15, is the day before Passover (the day of the first seder), when we mark **the Fast of the Firstborn** when firstborn are asked to fast from sun-up until the seder to remember the first born of Egypt who died in the tenth plague. Traditionally, synagogues hold a **siyyum** after minyan on that morning when the rabbi or someone else teaches the concluding paragraph of a tractate of Talmud, following which it is a mitzvah to celebrate with a meal, taking precedence over the fast. By attending the siyyum and then having a bite to

*Cont. on page 10*

## Tikkun Olam

### Behavioral Inertia to Altruistic Action

Today I watched an hour-long lecture on climate change. After being horrified at the rapid changes in climate and the potential of reaching the point of no return soon, I did what I have done so many times in the past, nothing. This scenario plays out countless times daily in settings around the globe. First, we listen, then we become anxious about the environment, then we do zip, zero, nada. This phenomenon has a name: "behavioral inertia." We desire to keep behaving as we already do and stick with the default behaviors regardless of the consequences. The environmental issues facing the planet need action, and so do other issues presented by the Tikkun Olam Committee.

Change is possible. Once a reset happens, the new behavior is adopted or stopped, and a new norm (habit) emerges. Then let behavioral inertia take control of your new action. We can help one another take action before and after each Tikkun Olam event. How?

**Buddy up:** Attend a presentation with a friend, chat afterward, and create a plan to make a small behavior change or add an action. One small change can have a big impact.

**Charge yourself:** Break a habit that causes damage to our world by charging yourself for contributing to the damage. Donate the proceeds to charity. Do you make too much trash? Try charging yourself \$1 for every bag produced.

**Write a thank you:** By documenting how you benefited from participation, even just listening, you are 75% more likely to take some action based on the presentation.

There are a lot of exciting programs coming up sponsored or co-sponsored by Tikkun Olam; watch the announcements for details, including:

**Hackensack River Clean-Up: April 24**  
**Congresswoman Kim Schrier: May 31**

The Tikkun Olam Committee also co-sponsors events with the Adult Education Committee on environmental issues.

**Bob Rohrberger, Co-chair**  
**Annemarie Roscello, Co-chair**

*Passover Guide, cont'd from p. 10*

eat, one can be exempted from the fast. While this observance has been traditionally limited to first-born males, in my opinion it ought to include first born females as well. Temple Israel and Glen Rock Jewish Center traditionally combine for the siyyum for erev Pesach. **This year's siyyum will be at Glen Rock Jewish Center at 7:00 am and I will be teaching.**

Hametz is not supposed to be eaten after around 11:00 am. However, matzah is not permitted to be eaten until the Seder. So, while the siyyum exempts the first born from fasting, there is not much to eat during most of the day in any case. But we all know that there is much food to come in the evening.

**The Passover Seder.** We celebrate the Seder on Friday and Saturday evenings, April 15 and 16. Since the Second Seder falls on a Saturday night, the Havdalah paragraph that is inserted into the first kiddush for the first cup of wine must be said after dark (around 8:15 pm). If you are doing an earlier seder, postpone that paragraph (when it says to add on Saturday night) to the next cup of wine (second, third or fourth) once it is dark. The Haggadah is the special book containing the Seder service. There are more haggadot published than any other book in the world. At a Jewish bookstore or online you will find a wonderful selection. I generally recommend the Rabbinical Assembly haggadah, *The Feast of Freedom*.

**Yom Tov and Hol HaMoed.** Saturday and Sunday, April 16 and April 17, and Friday and Saturday, April 22 and 23, are called "yom tov" or festivals. These days are treated like Shabbat in that we are supposed to refrain from work. Temple Israel holds festival services on those days similar to our Shabbat services. (But on the first two days, the 16 and 17, we start a half hour later than usual, at 9:30, because we were all at a seder late the previous evenings.) The "intermediate days" between the festival days are called "Hol HaMoed" when we still eat only kosher-for-Passover foods, but we are permitted to work.

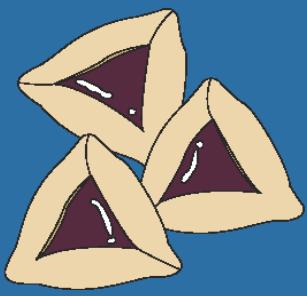
**Yizkor.** On the final day of Passover, Saturday, April 23, we say the Yizkor prayers at synagogue, remembering those who used to celebrate with us and are here no longer. RCBI will mark Yizkor on Friday, April 22 at 7:00 pm. It is customary to make a donation to the synagogue where Yizkor is said in memory of our loved ones.

**End of Passover.** Passover ends Saturday night, April 23 at about 8:30 pm. Many enjoy a hearty meal of carbs that evening.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding these guidelines, or anything else.

Passover has a special greeting: *hag kasher v'sameah* (a kosher and a happy holiday!). Usually we just say *hag sameah* (happy holiday!) on Jewish festivals. But on Passover we wish one another a kosher and happy holiday, because we are challenged to keep kosher-for-Passover for eight days.

*Alla, Laurence, Ariel and I wish you and yours a kosher and happy Passover. Hag kasher v'sameah.*



# Purim Party!



Wednesday,  
3/16/22

Schedule :  
4:30-5- MUSIC with  
Morah Suzy  
5:00-6- Purim Carnival  
6:00-6:30- Festive  
Meal  
6:30- 8 Megillah  
reading



All are welcome! Tell  
your friends

wear a  
costume!



To eat indoors you'll need to show a vax card. Or, grab your meal and head outdoors! We'll have a spot for you.

Temple Israel & JCC \* 475 Grove Street\* Ridgewood

## **Brandeis Men's Club of Temple Israel**

Invites you and your guests to our:

### **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing!**



### **Farmstead Golf and Country Club**

Andover, New Jersey (about 60 minutes from Ridgewood)

[www.farmsteadaolf.com](http://www.farmsteadaolf.com)

**Date: Tuesday, June, 21, 12:30 PM ~ Shotgun start!**

**Time: Arrive no later than 11:45 AM**

**Cost: \$65 includes 18 holes and electric cart  
Payable in advance to reserve your spot**

**Open to all members of Temple Israel and friends**

**Space is limited, so reserve your spot now; you don't have to  
have a foursome! 1-2-3-or 4 players welcome!**

- Prize for team Low Gross
- Prize for team Low Net (Callaway scoring, everyone has a chance)
- Prize for Longest Drive
- Prize for Closest to the Pin ~~ **\$18,000 Hole in One prize!**

**RSVP by June 13th**

**Howard.TI475@gmail.com**

**Send your check payable to Brandeis Men's Club to:**

Howard Schreiber  
10 Baker Court  
Ramsey, NJ 07446

## Rabbi Fine, cont'd from p. 1

Whoopi Goldberg was right to be corrected and was right to apologize. Her comment was insensitive and hurtful to Jews, which was what my Protestant colleague was looking for me to articulate. Her position also seemed to misunderstand what racism is. Firstly, racism is not limited to skin pigmentation but is a broader concept of seeing physical traits as biological hereditary distinctions and as signs of sociological behavioral patterns. But secondly, the very idea of race is denied by many, if not most, contemporary anthropologists. There is more genetic distinction among the various African tribal groups, it is oft pointed out, than between any one of them and Europeans. Racism is no longer understood as a biological distinction but is still used as a way to explain prejudice, and that is what Whoopi missed.

But after all that is said, there should still be room for a conversation. Whoopi's point, or what I can make out her point to be, was that Jews have been able to pass as "white" while African Americans cannot. Her mistake was in seeing Jews and Nazis as two white groups when the very descriptive "white" is more a sociological than biological description. Some Jews were able to pass as Aryans just as some, although perhaps fewer, African Americans have been able to pass as white. What lies beneath this, however, is a sense that Jews benefit from "white privilege," which is more a comment about today's society than that of Nazi Germany.

I remember at some point in college having a long conversation with the dean, trying, unsuccessfully, to convince her that Jews should be considered people of color and recognized along with other minority groups under that banner. She held that Jews do not suffer today, in America, as a minority. My counterargument was that they perceive themselves as such, and their self-conception and identity should be what matters. The recent horrific antisemitic outbursts in the United States remind us all that the minority-nature of Jewish Americans is not merely self-perception. Thinking back on that conversation with my college dean over thirty years ago, I realize how Whoopi Goldberg's comments can lead to two very different (mis)conceptions: that Jews can pass as white and therefore cannot appreciate the racism that African Americans face, or, alternatively, that Jews are white, that they are part of the privileged class.

Whoopi Goldberg is certainly not antisemitic. Her words, though, can help guide us through understanding the very complex nature of prejudice, and help direct dialogue to where so much work is needed.

## President's Column, cont'd from p. 1

discretion of the temple president (the actual current Temple Israel president, not someone dressed up as the Temple Israel president, or any other president for that matter).

Of course, it would not be Purim without Mishloach Manot. Mishloach Manot preparation and distribution is planned for the morning of March 13. We always enjoy bringing together our young families and older members to stuff and deliver the sacks. Please reach out to Maureen in the office or Scott Leiman, our treasurer and Michloach Manot maven, if you can assist in this longstanding TI tradition.

If Purim is around the corner, Passover must be around the corner after that. We are hoping for a return of our community seder (Saturday, April 16), should the public-health situation permit. What a wonderful way to celebrate the second night of Passover, by bringing your family together with your extended

Temple Israel family as we retell the story of the exodus and partake in the festive meal, the shulchan orech.

Wait a minute? What about the Ways & Means dinner? Isn't that usually in March? Well, yes. But these are hardly usual times. So a change is in order. On Saturday, April 30, the TI community will pay tribute to former Ridgewood school superintendent (and longtime TI member) Dr. Dan Fishbein at a super Ways & Means party. This year's affair will have all the trappings of past galas—a humble honoree, attractive auction items, toe-tapping entertainment, a sumptuous smorgasbord—as well as Havdallah and a program honoring Dan. The Ways & Means evening is a highlight of our secular calendar and a wonderful way to spend a fun-filled evening with friends from every corner of our community. Please mark your calendar to join us in celebrating Dan and Temple Israel.

These are but a sampling of the rich, multigenerational programming planned at TI this spring. And I have not even mentioned Sisterhood Shabbat (March 26), the Interfaith Holocaust Service on Yom Ha Shoah (April 27), or the BBQ on Yom Ha'atzma'ut (May 4), let alone b'nai mitzvah services. You know those seventh graders learning to don tefillin? Well, they are about to become Jewish adult members of our community. Please join me as we connect across generations and celebrate their (and our) exciting milestones.

**James Goldfarb, President**



## Maximizing Required Minimum Distributions

Did you know that you can pay your Temple Israel dues and make donations to TI with required minimum distributions (RMDs) from retirement accounts? The tax law permits individuals to direct that some portion of their IRA and 401(k) RMDs be used as charitable donations. To the extent that the RMD is directed to a qualified charity, the taxable portion of the RMD is reduced. As a result, a taxpayer who takes advantage of this rule effectively gets the deduction for charitable donations that otherwise might be lost. *Individual circumstances may vary. Please consult with your tax advisor, accountant, or lawyer to see if you are eligible to pay your Temple dues or make other donations to Temple Israel in this tax-efficient manner.*



## Chesed: Here When you Need Us

The Chesed Committee maintains a collection of gently used medical equipment available for loan by congregants. We currently have canes, crutches, walkers, and a wheelchair. We hope you won't need any of these, but remember us if you do. If you have **gently used medical equipment (small items only)** that you'd like to donate, or if you have need of these items, **call Elyse Levene to make arrangements at 201-306-1283.**



# Temple Israel & JCC Circle of Honor

The Circle of Honor is our campaign for high-end donors; it offers members an opportunity to make a three-year commitment with a minimum annual contribution of \$1,800.

Circle of Honor donors are publicly recognized with a plaque in the main lobby. In exchange for your pledge, you'll receive benefits such as free admission to designated TI-JCC events, reserved High Holiday parking, advertising space in the annual Ad Journal, and more, depending on your level of commitment.

Information about the Circle of Honor is on our website at  
<http://www.synagogue.org/support-us/circle-of-honor>.

## Benefactor's Circle

Beth & Freddie Kotek  
Lisa Mellman & Toby Nygaard

## Patron's Circle

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Alyson Yashar & James Goldfarb  
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Peri & David Namerow  
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## Pillar's Circle

Audrey Meyers & Scott Agins  
Sisterhood of Temple Israel

## Sponsor's Circle

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and Jewish Community Center

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Ridgewood, NJ 07450**

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## **Hametz**

### **Mekhirat Hametz Authorization-5782/2022** **Return to the synagogue office no later than Thursday, April 14**

We hereby authorize Rabbi David Fine to sell all *hametz* that may be in our possession, wherever it may be - at home, at our place of business, or elsewhere - in accordance with the requirements of Jewish law, as incorporated in the special contract for the sale of *hametz*.

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_